

"Voice of HOPE"

Newsletter of the HOPE House

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Issue number: 10



**With my host's (Stanley's) family in Iowa and Mr. Manoah Mohanraj
(President of HOPE House International) during my visit to the US**

**Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves,
for the rights of all who are destitute.**

King Solomon

Volunteers wanted

HOPE House is looking for volunteers to interact with the children at various locations in Vellore and in Ranipet. Volunteers are needed in the following tasks: Teaching to play board and/ or card games, learning Indian form of dance, learning to speak in English, Story telling, and learning to playing string and/ or percussion instruments etc.

Interested volunteers will be oriented with needed information before beginning to volunteer. We would welcome volunteers that can spare at least one to two hours of time per week for three months. At the end of the period, volunteers will receive a certificate of appreciation.

Please call the program director of the HOPE House Mr. Ruby Nakka in Vellore at 9344691380 for more details.

“Do not wait for leaders, do it alone person to person”.

- Mother Teresa



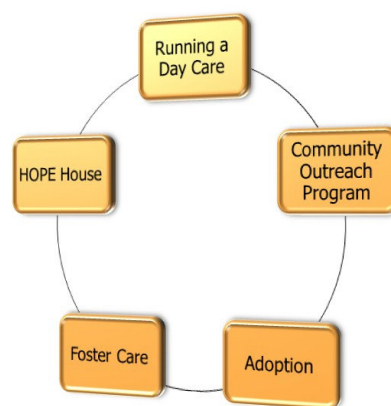
Dear Friend,

Greetings to you from Vellore. Before I write anything, I would like to render my apology for the delay in getting this newsletter on time. Without making any excuses, I want to assure you that I will work harder to make sure to release it on time.

In December of 2007, our state had sent me to attend a sensitization training of a new law for Indian children called “Juvenile and Justice Act”. I was pleasantly surprised at the progressiveness of this law and developed much clearer understanding of the focus of Indian government in terms of caring for children that need care and protection.

One of many newer understandings is “De-institutionalization” of children. Government is focusing and asking others to do the same on this: Exhaust all the other options before placing a child in an institution (like HOPE House).

I immediately began deliberations with like-minded people and supporters who all have concurred with India’s focus and extended their support to help HOPE House get aligned with this new focus. With their assistance, the process to evaluate our current vision and the needed adjustments resumed. I am proud to present to you the main categories of focus below. It is our hope that all the programs will be encompassed within these categories to serve to prevent a



child from becoming an orphan or provide an environment of a home/ community to an orphaned child. I hope you would support these initiatives. Ruby.

NEWS:

- HOPE House’s newest program ‘Community Outreach Program’ (COP) is launched on April 1st, 2008. COP is to enable families (with HIV) to keep their children at their homes while receiving help from the HOPE House. Help (in kind) will be rendered in four different areas namely food, shelter, clothing & cosmetics and child’s school supplies. Conducted an orientation program on COP to the area medical doctors, social workers and counselors on June 5th at Wheeler Hall in CMC.

- HOPE House children had enjoyed summer holidays for one month from May 1st to May 31st. Now they all have started new classes.

- At the invitation of HOPE House International, I visited the US from April 24th to May 20th. I met different groups of people in California, Iowa, Texas, and Indiana and talked to scores of people over the telephone. It would be impractical for me to list all the activities of my trip but I do want to share two incidents that have touched my heart deeply.
 1. First incident took place at a church in Waverly, IA. Right at the entrance of the hallway, there was a plastic bucket and writing on the wall near the bucket said “Milk lid moolah for the HOPE House”. Upon enquiring, I found out that my host (Lynda) collects milk can lids from her congregation members and sends them to some place in the US that sends her money for it. That money is used to support the HOPE House.

 2. Second incident took place at Houston, TX. Few months ago when I was talking to a friend of mine, I told him that except for one child, all of our children have sponsors. He promised to find a sponsor and a few weeks later I heard from my friend saying that his two young sons (Jason 15, and Jacob 12) like to be sponsors for a child. When I visited those two boys in Houston, I asked them how they raise the money and what they told me had moved me. On Saturday’s they go to their dad’s Physical Therapy clinic to clean up the entire place and dad pays them money to support a child at the HOPE House.

It is stories like these that make us to be more determined to be sincere stewards of the resources that are placed in our hands. We say thank you to all our supporters

HOPE House is facilitating to start an adoptive families support group in the city of Vellore.

If you have adoptive children in your family and would like to network with other adoptive families to seek/ give support by being part of such a group, please call Mr. Ruby Nakka at [9344691380](tel:9344691380).

If you know of a family that might benefit, we would appreciate if you could pass this message along.

FACTOID

Percent of special needs children at the HOPE House: 21

Percent of girls at the HOPE House: 100

On Average, a child at the HOPE House had gained 3.35 KG of weight and 2.71 inches of height from April 1st 07 to March 31st 08.

If you're touched by our message and inspired to support us, you can do the following:

**If you live in the USA,
address your payments to
“HOPE House International”
and mail it to this address:**

**HOPE House International
P.O. Box: 7438
Chico, CA – 95927-7438**

(HHI is a 501c3 organization – (non profit) and your contributions are tax deductible allowed by the U.S. law)

**If you live in India,
Address your payments to
“The HOPE House”
and mail it to this address:**

**The HOPE House
16/28, 25th East Cross Road
Gandhinagar, Vellore – 632006**

(HH is 80 G organization (non-profit) and your contributions are tax deductible allowed by the Indian law)